

SHABBAT MESSAGE
OCTOBER 9, 2020



Hi Everyone,

I hope you've had a great week! I don't know about you, but I feel like things in this world are moving so quickly, sometimes so much so that I can't keep up. It seems like every time I check the news there is some new, breaking story. We used to get those types of stories once a month. Now it seems to be happening once every couple of hours, and at times it can feel overwhelming.

This constant news cycle also means that the smaller things don't get noticed, and it's often these smaller things that are the good news. Today, I'd like to focus on just that; some of the good news in our Rhode Island Jewish community that you may have missed.

You've heard me talk many times over the past few months about how you helped raise more than \$250,000 for our community's Covid-19 Relief and Recovery Fund. We are now seeing the impact of your support. Since March, donors have helped restock the Kosher Food Pantry four times, and the fund has directly impacted nearly 1,000 individuals in our community.

Another bright spot is our community's day schools and early childhood center. They have been open for nearly five weeks, providing a caring and nurturing environment, and perhaps more importantly right now, a sense of normalcy for children and their families; and all while doing so with enhanced safety protocols that minimize the risk of infection. At Hillel's across our state, college students have been connecting with one another and practicing their Judaism on campus, with the resources and support that they have come to expect.

And I want to spotlight our clergy, cantors, and synagogue staff across the state for the work they did to create a meaningful high-holiday experience for everyone. I've heard so many stories from people across congregations who said that despite the social distance or virtual gatherings, the services carried tremendous meaning. I'm proud that the Alliance was able to help those synagogues meeting outdoors to ensure their services were safe and protected, and that we could also provide support for many meeting online.

We are not back to normal, and I know that hard days still lie ahead. But this good news reminds us of the strong vibrant community we have, and it reminds me that it exists because of you. In September, the Alliance kicked off our annual community campaign. That campaign supports all of the organizations I just spoke of, and this year we hope to raise more than \$3 million to continue to create the community we all desire.

If you haven't yet made a gift, I hope you will consider doing so. You can make a gift at www.jewishallianceri.org/donate. Together, we can continue to create the good news that keeps us all going strong.

Until next time, I wish you a safe, healthy, and joyous Shabbat.

Shabbat Shalom!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam".

Adam Greenman
President & CEO

PS. A reminder that our friends and partners at Jewish Collaborative Services are here to help the community. If you or a loved one are in need of assistance, please reach out to them at 401.331.1244 or visit www.jcsri.org.